



THE RARA RAG

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You've Been Up to... WHAT?

By Bill Marinucci, WB2GHC

Over the past few months, several RARA members have approached me about the possibility of having one of our meetings dedicated to 'mini' presentations. These 'mini' presentations would involve ham radio related projects, product evaluations, digital and software items, antennas, etc. I announced this at the November Auction and several of you volunteered to do one. I also had two volunteers contact me on 2 meters to ask for time on the agenda. I am delighted to see this kind of interest in this program.

Realistically, we will be limited in time for these presentations, in the interest of bringing the meeting to a timely conclusion by 9:30 PM at the latest. I am currently developing an agenda with time allocations for volunteers. There is still time available for additional presenters, and I am asking that if you would like a few minutes to do a presentation, please contact me so that I may add you to the agenda. My home telephone number is (585) 889-9008, and emails can be sent to me at wb2ghc@arrl.net. The reason for having an agenda is to ensure that you will have the time to make your presentation. It would not be very good if you lug your project over to the meeting, then we run out of time and not be able to get to you. Not cool!

There is so much going on in our ham community, and this is a great opportunity to share what you have been up to with your fellow hams. One thing is for sure, ham radio is very diverse; there is something for everybody in the hobby. What better way to get an idea or two, and continue the learning process as we continue our pursuits in ham radio! See you at the meeting.

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RARA Meeting

Mini-Presentations

December 2, 2011 7:30PM

Henrietta Fire Co. #1
3129 East Henrietta Rd. (15A)



The Prez Sez

By Frank Schramm, WB2PYD
President, RaRa

What's in a name? Each month at a RaRa meeting I see some of my friends like Jim, Bob, Dick, Len, Tim and Tom. Like them, many of us choose to use a less formal, or shortened name in everyday casual conversation.

In the near future RaRa will be issuing new, permanent Membership Cards. These will be plastic and resemble a credit card that will also serve as a name tag that can be worn on a lanyard. An example of the current working prototype is shown below. These new cards will be encoded and scannable for validation purposes and provide you access to the growing number of benefits to your membership.

As you have already experienced over the past month or two, as you renewed your membership, we now have a new, internet accessible, multi-relational, membership database. Numerous implementations are being developed to provide you fast and efficient membership services, and manage your member benefits. In the foreseeable future, you will simply scan your membership card for admission to the Hamfest and Annual Auction.

Possibly the best part is the new cards also function as a name tag, which brings me back to: What's in a name? The new cards will be ordered for production using the information in our membership database which, in most cases, has your formal first name as it appears on your FCC record and license. So if you prefer to be called Jim instead of James, or Len in lieu of Leonard, or "Stud Muffin" instead of Lloyd, you should log on to the member data access page at: <http://www.rochesterham.org/Membership-Data.aspx> and enter a "nickname". Name tags will be made using your nickname, if you enter one, otherwise your full first name will be used. While you are in there, feel free to change your access code to something you will remember; and verify your e-mail address is correct or you may suddenly stop receiving the RAG next month.

Have a wonderful Holiday Season!

73 and prosperous DXing.

Frank
WB2PYD



Rochester Hamfest and Technology Expo Features:

- Weatherproof! – 60,000 square feet of air conditioned indoor flea market & vendors
- Tailgating on pavement
- Close to the Thruway with an on-site hotel
- Indoor setup 7-9 am
- Tailgate setup 6:30 am
- Doors open at 9 am!

Visit the website (www.RochesterHamfest.com) for up-to-date and late breaking news and photos of the new venue!

**Mark your calendars:
Saturday June 30th!**

**FREE Admission for
RaRa Members!**



Rag-Chew

Editor's Thoughts & Comments
By Kevin Carey, WB2QMY
Editor@RochesterHam.org

Welcome to the December issue of the *RARA Rag*. I'm pleased to announce another installment of our *Member Spotlight* column in this issue, this time featuring longtime member and volunteer for a multitude of RARA tasks, Irv Goodman, AF2K. I know I learned a lot of interesting things about Irv's background in radio while preparing this issue.

The holidays are a great time to get on the air and chip away at some of those long delayed projects around the shack. I'm working to recreate my Novice station from 1977, which consists of a Hallicrafters HT-40 transmitter and a Realistic DX-150A receiver. Sure, I love my IC-746PRO, but for me, this rig can't match the pure excitement of those early days on 80-meter CW with my bare bones setup! Feel free to tell us about your current projects so we can share it with other readers. Last month's CW Breakout Box was a great example, and I would like to see more of these types of articles.

Merry Christmas and happy holidays to all readers!

Calendar of Events

- Dec 2** RaRa General Meeting – 7:30
Henrietta Fire Hall,
3129 E. Henrietta Rd
- Dec 7** RaRa Board of Directors
5:30 PM, RIT
Engineering Hall, Room 2110
- Dec 17** RaRa VE Testing sessions
10:00 AM, RIT
Gleason Hall, Room 3139

Follow us on facebook



New home of the Rochester Hamfest – The Gordon Field house at RIT!!!



RaRa VE Sessions

By Ken Hall, W2KRH

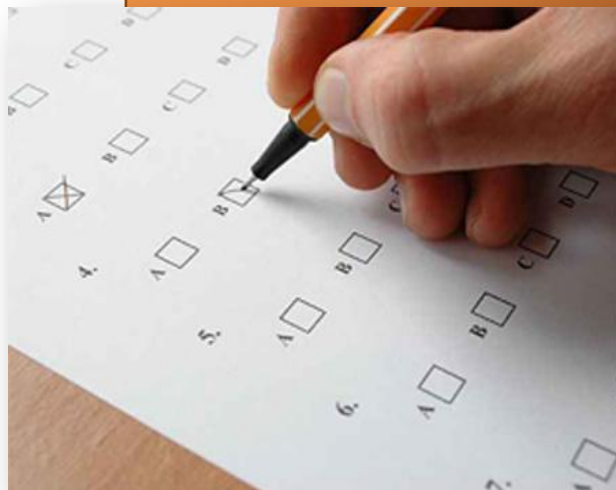
The RARA VE team is offering regular test sessions on the **third Saturday of each month from now until April**, in Room 9-3139 at RIT. The final session will be held at the 2012 Hamfest at RIT on June 30th. Should you have any questions on VE testing please contact me at ken@w2krh.com.

RARA Licensing Classes

By Sue Waterstraat, KC2SUE

If you missed the fall licensing classes, you have another chance, and there's no time like the present to sign up! On Tuesday evenings, beginning January 3, 2012, the Technician Class and Extra Class License courses will be conducted at RIT from 6:30-8:30 PM. Both courses will be completed to coincide with the February 18th VE testing session. A General class is not being offered at this time, due to instructor availability.

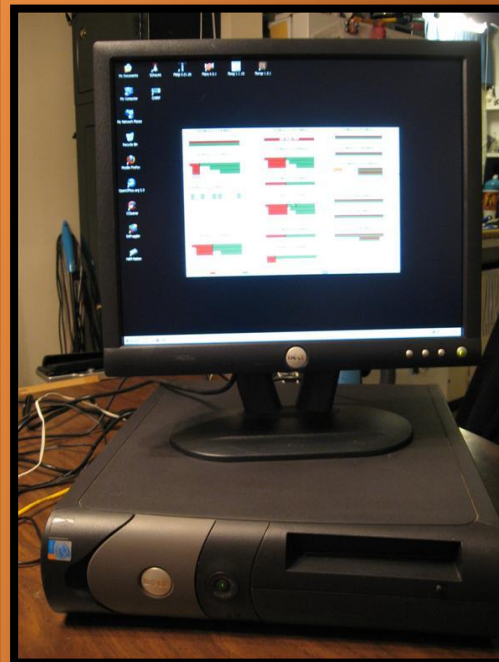
Class space is limited, and reservations are highly recommended. Please register at least *two weeks* before the first class. These courses are FREE to current members and only \$15.00 for non-members. Not a current RARA member? Membership starts at only \$8.00! Click here for information on joining RARA: <http://www.rochesterhamfest.org/Membership.htm>. For more information on classes, or to register for one, please contact me at suewater@rochester.rr.com, or by telephone at 585-582-1149.



Meeting Prizes!

Jay Hamill, KC2TCM
Sabrina Hamill, WD2STK

For December, we've decided to get together a nice ham shack computer! This is a Dell Optiplex GX270 with a Hyperthreading Pentium 4 CPU, 1GB of RAM, 40GB Hard Drive, 17" LCD Monitor, 1 Parallel, 1 Serial, and 8 USB ports. It has a fresh install of Windows XP Professional, fully updated, optimized and patched, and several Ham Radio applications already installed. It comes complete with a keyboard, mouse and speakers. The 2nd and 3rd prizes will be announced at the meeting. We'd also like to thank Ryan, KD2AWP for helping with this month's raffle prize!



RARA Winterfest!

By Gary Skuse, KA1NJL

Save the date: Saturday, February 11th, 2012!—That's the day of RARA's winter picnic in Ellison Park, and this year will be better than ever! In addition to the usual camaraderie, the famous chili cook-off and a lot of just plain old fun, we are going to make this one an *operating event*.

We will be using the special callsign of K2R for the weekend and we are inviting everyone to join us in operating on as many bands as we can muster. We anticipate that the distinctive call will make us especially popular with operators on the other side of the ether so this should be fun. As our plans come together more details will be provided in future articles in the *Rag* but for now please plan to join us for the Winterfest.

Member Profile: Irv Goodman, AF2K

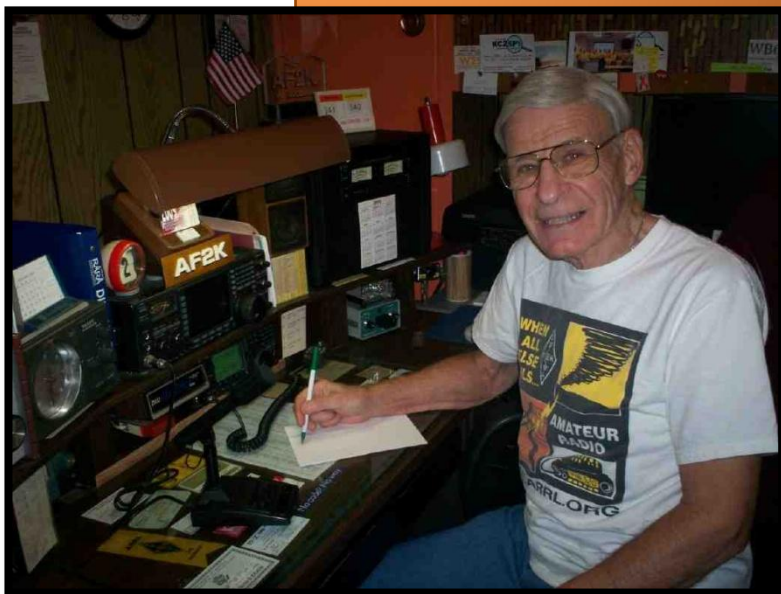
by Len Crellin, KC2PCD

This month's article is about someone who has been a fixture at RARA meetings and events since the early '70s. His life before ham radio is as interesting as that which followed! His willingness to serve the club in so many ways over the years should be a grand example to our newer members who have yet to get involved in helping by becoming an officer, director, committee member or volunteer at one of our many events. I am so pleased to bring you the life story of our December Ham of the Month—Irv Goodman, AF2K.

As a kid growing up in West Irondequoit, I spent considerable time glued to the multi-band G.E. console radio in our living room, listening on the various short wave bands. There were four ham operators on my road – Jack Auer, W2SGJ, the first one I ever visited when I was 15. Plus Harold Eskin, W2UG (SK, ex-W2PVK), Dave Bodner, K2ZFM (SK), and Ralph Amdursky, W2DFS, now of Tamarac, Florida, whose 75-meter mobile signal would always come blasting across the band whenever he drove by while I was listening.

In 1949, I finally purchased a new Hallicrafters S-53 receiver from Burstein-Applebee, and with a long wire in the back yard and a fixed 3-element 10-meter beam in the attic crawl space, got into some serious SWLing from my bedroom on the second floor. I joined ARRL as an Associate member and several SWL organizations. Over the next few years, I managed to get all 98 countries and 48 states confirmed.

I graduated from Irondequoit High School in 1951 and spent three years at RIT in Publishing & Printing Department. While there, club station K2GXT came into being. The ham shack was a tiny room on the roof of the old downtown campus Eastman Building at 65 S. Plymouth Ave. In October of '56 I was drafted into Uncle Sam's Army, hoping to get assigned to the 144th Signal Battalion at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey. Instead, from Fort Dix, I headed to Fort Hood, Texas for Armored Infantry Basic where I spent most (but not all!) of my weekends either in the post print shop, producing various items for my Battalion Supply room (S4) where I worked, or hanging around K5WAB, the nice MARS station on post. Being the only Private in my Company with a car (despite being instructed not to do so, I drove it back



Irv, AF2K at his modern-day station

after having flown home for a Christmas leave given to everyone), I was quite popular with my co-workers when it came time to head to Austin for a weekend of partying.

I sold the car (a 1953 2-door Chevy) in Fort Hood and headed to West Germany via Fort Hamilton, L.I. and Military Sea Transport System. During my 18 months in Deutschland, I was a Battalion Ammunition Sergeant (E-5), basically a desk job in S4. I spent several weeks attending Small Arms Repair School in Fuessen in the beautiful Bavarian Alps countryside. My spare time was spent with the crew at the DL4ORD station there. The S-53, which I had my parents ship over to me, was sold just before I came back to the states in Oct. '58, one week after Elvis Pressley arrived at the same barracks in Friedberg, 21 miles south of Frankfurt.

Back home, I was hired as an Inspector and Proofreader at the old Todd Co. Division of Burroughs Corp. in January 1959. But it wasn't until 15 years later when my mom drew my attention to an item in the Times-Union announcing RARA licensing courses coming up, I enrolled and finally obtained my Novice ticket on June 21st, 1974. I did not want to get on the air as WN2WCE until my dipole with the Rochester-made Reyco traps was in the air and ready, and my QSL cards were printed. Using the handle "Irv" (instead of Irwin), my first QSO was New Years Eve, Jan. 1, 1975, using a Heathkit DX-60 and HG-10 VFO, purchased from Chuck Beyer, WA2QFU (now WG2A). Those Novice days were some of the most enjoyable, especially staying up late at night to catch those rare western states including Alaska and Hawaii on 80 CW, using a straight key of course.

Upgrading was a slow and painful struggle. I never flunked a CW test in my life, but failed multiple theory exams which required numerous Fridays off from work to make that trip to the Buffalo FCC office to try again. The only exception was the Extra Class which I breezed through on the first attempt at 1978 Rochester Hamfest, and regretfully changed my callsign shortly thereafter to something shorter.

I should mention that one of the many persons who provided the incentive for me to upgrade was Tim Wettach, N2TW, (ex-WB2EXH), now of Houston, Texas, who was licensed at age 11 and an Extra by 13.

My involvement with Rochester Amateur Radio Association has been a variety of activities. Of course I became a member when I enrolled in the Novice course in 1974. I upgraded to Life membership in September 1976. (ARRL Life Member since 1978.) I became quite active in K2JD activity during ARES/RACES drills and also VHF Contests. I took on the task of RARA Membership Secretary in 1981 and 1982. RARA membership exceeded 1,000 for several years and at the season-opener September meetings at the Farm & Home Center on Highland Ave., renewals were handled by breaking the crowd down into three lines based on first letter of your last name. Of course this was the pre-computer era. I did several interviews of well-known local key personalities for the *Rag*. I operated my HF mobile rig at several RARA picnics when the date coincided with annual Kids' Day, so youngsters could get some hands-on involvement with radio. In addition, I was deeply involved with the K2JD Engraving team at local and area Hamfests, carefully etching the license plate key chains. I also maintained the RARA Hotline for many years when it was located inside K2JD and subsequently moved to my QTH in 2002 with a new vanity phone number we managed to secure at no upcharge.

Irwin J. Goodman		515 Drumm Road		
WEBSTER, NEW YORK 14580		Suburb of Rochester. Monroe County, on Lake Ontario		
WN2WCE				
To RADIO	Confirming our CW QSO of			
Time	Freq.	MHz.	Ur Sigs RST	
Xmtr HEATHKIT DX-60	Rcvr. DRAKE 2-C		MULTIBAND	
HG-10 B VFO			Ant. "TRAP" DIPOLE	
PSE QSL TNX		Rochester Amateur Radio Association		73

Irwin J. Goodman		515 Drumm Road			
WEBSTER, NEW YORK 14580 U.S.A.		MONROE COUNTY		NORTH AMERICA, ZONE 5	
AF2K		ex-WB2WCE			
Confirming QSO with	Date	Time	Freq.	Mode	RST
	19	GMT	MHz	2-Way	
XMTR: Drake T-4XC, Heathkit SB-220, RCVR: Drake R-4C, C-4 Console, MN7 ANT: 3-el. Mosley CL-33 Beam at Trap Dipole		w. 		Also: ZB2EN	
				PSE QSL TNX	
				73	

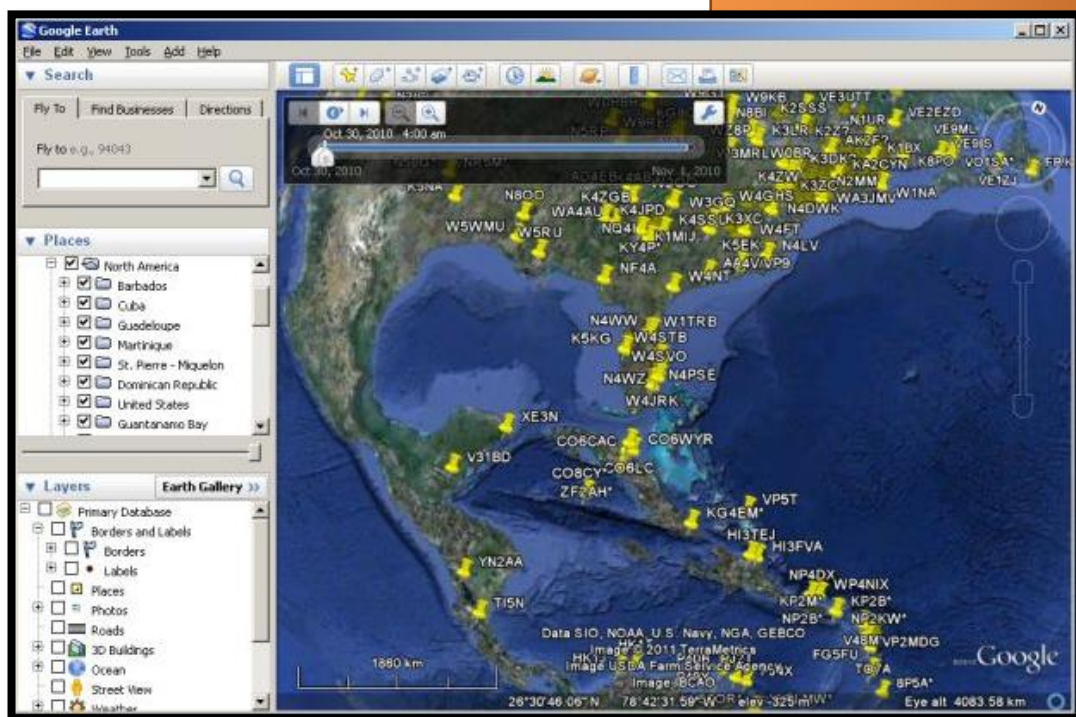
Irv's QSL cards, 1970's and 80's

I have been involved in Traffic Handling and also Contesting over the past 37 years, but DXing has been my primary focus. I have undertaken two DX-peditions, both to Gibraltar, in Nov. '78 and Nov. '79, as ZB2EN, along with my DX partner Russ McKay, W2RMM (ex-WA2CBU / ZB2EM). I managed to achieve DXCC Honor Roll (Mixed) in 2007, which I didn't think I would attain in my lifetime. More recently, I have been chasing new Grid Squares on The Magic Band – 6 meters. You might say I am obsessed with this unique hobby of ours. The camaraderie and special friendships that exist throughout the amateur radio fraternity are unequalled. 73, and see you on the air!

Ham Tech: SH5 Contest Log Analyzer

By Duane Fregoe, K2SI

For all the contesters there is a program that will analyze (and maybe over analyze!) your Cabrillo file. SH5 Contest Logs Analyzer will create a variety of statistics. All reports are created in HTML format which can be viewed with any web browser. The reports can be broken down by operator, by bands, by countries, and by time period. The program will also create KML files that you can open in Google Earth and review all the contacts you have made on a chosen band. The program can be downloaded at: <http://www.tr4w.com/sh5/>



Rates

Time	QSOs	QSOs per minute	QSOs per hour	From		To	
				Time	QSO #	Time	QSO #
10	28	2.8	168	09-May-2009 12:09	18	09-May-2009 12:20	46
20	55	2.8	165	09-May-2009 17:18	578	09-May-2009 17:38	633
30	79	2.6	158	09-May-2009 17:19	580	09-May-2009 17:49	659
60	142	2.4	142	09-May-2009 12:09	18	09-May-2009 13:09	160
120	252	2.1	126	09-May-2009 12:00	1	09-May-2009 14:00	253

SKYWARN Recognition Day 2011

By Duane Fregoe, K2SI

SKYWARN Recognition Day will be December 3, 2010 (0000 – 2400 UTC). In local terms it is Friday December 2nd, 7:00 PM till Saturday December 3rd, 7:00 PM. National Weather Service offices across the country will be on the air for 24 hours. The goal is to contact as many offices as possible using repeaters, IRLP, Echolink, and HF. This is a fun event for new hams that may only have a Technician class license. Many of the weather service offices will be on Echolink and IRLP. The National Weather Service office in Buffalo will be participating again this year. Look for WX2BUF on Echolink and you can also check in on the 145.110 repeater. Submit your total number of weather service office contacts for a certificate from the National Weather Service. More information is available online at:

<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/mtr/hamradio/>.

RARA Academy

By Duane Fregoe, K2SI

RARA Academy #4 is being planned for Saturday January 14th, 2012. It will be at the RIT Campus on Jefferson Road, Building #9 (Gleason Building), Room #3139. This is the same room that RARA does the monthly license testing. The class will start at 9:00AM.

This Academy will only be two hours long and focus on one topic. The topic will be "Internet Ham Radio". It will be a continuation of the presentation at the 2011 Rochester Hamfest. There were so many great questions it was hard to fit it all in the one hour time slot we had. Most of the presentation will be on Echolink and IRLP. If you have an Android phone or an iPhone you should already have the free Echolink app installed. Bring your phone to class and we will do some live demonstrations in the classroom. I will also show you some other Internet based programs that will allow you to communicate with other hams around the world. With a Technician class license you have access to all of this! Save the date as more information will be coming.



RARA Rags of the Past

By Ed Gable, K2MP
RaRa Historian

20 Years Ago, December, 1991

"December is Celebration Month," were the headlines written by Vice-President Lloyd Caves, WB2EFU. Lloyd told of the 60th Anniversary of RaRa's affiliation with the ARRL and how RaRa members would celebrate the event. Planned was a Celebration Party, in conjunction with the Friday December 6th meeting as well as a weekend long on-air Special Event featuring RaRa's Club station, K2JD.

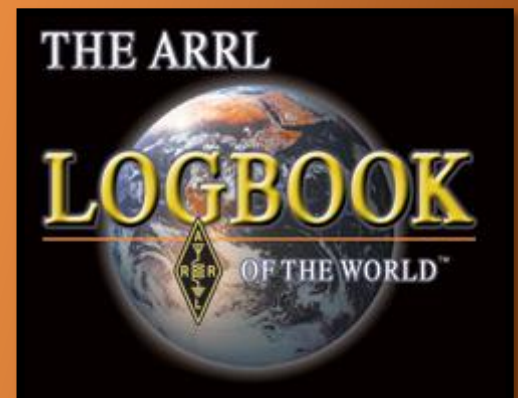
Writing for RaRa's VE testing team was Bob Fortman, WE2T, who reported 10 new hams and as many upgrades as a result of the last testing session. Bob thanked VE test volunteers; George AA2FO, Stan WM3D, Barb AA2CX and Sid KO2WV for their service throughout the year. With regret it was reported that Herbert Jordan, WA2MSA, was reported as a Silent Key. From the Want Ads you could buy back issues of *QST*, for only \$30.00 a year, from Howard Caudle W2RSU. We saw a new commercial advertiser: Snyder and Snyder Attorneys at Law, with Sherwood Snyder W2KFU, Jeanette Snyder (wife) and Paul Snyder (son) all ready to serve the community.

40 Years Ago, December 1971

Forty years ago this month if you attended the RaRa meeting you would have been greeted, entertained and educated on the current affairs of Navy MARS (Military Affiliate Radio System). Presenters were (with MARS call-signs) Rick Parcelli N0SQK, Joe Marcey N0PRU, Ken Seil N0PVZ and Al Wise N0KMC.

The 11th annual RaRa Dinner Dance was announced with John Lucas, WA2BEH, Chairman. John says the social event of the season will be at the Jefferson Road Roundtown Motor Inn on February 12th. Harold Smith, WA2KND, wrote to thank those who supported his unsuccessful bid for election to ARRL Vice-Director for the Atlantic Division. As usual, the results of the ARRL FD were published in *QST* with the local Band-Dit-Dahs, this year using the call K2JD/2, crushing the local competition by a two-to-one margin. Second place was "Will's Warriors" (Will Herzog K2AHB) and a group from RF Communications.

It was this time, 40 years ago, that the local 146.88 repeater moved to the top of Kodak Office. The 15-watt, solid state repeater was built by Charlie Mills, K2LDU. From the Want Ads you could buy a Clegg Interceptor B receiver from Len, WA2ZNC. A new advertiser was Harry's Amateur Radio Supply, in Baldwinsville, NY.



Scanning Report—CHPs via F2 Skip

By Jim Sutton, N2OPS

“Good things come to those who wait.” Local ham operators are being richly rewarded with the MUF climbing well above ten meters compliments of sunspot cycle 24. For hams, the ten meter band heralds the beginning of F2 skip with the six meter band coming alive when F2 is at its best. But what happens “in-between?”

The 29.7-50 MHz range is known to scanner listeners as the low band. As the MUF climbs, signals come in from 2000-3000 miles during daylight hours from October to April during the peak of the sunspot cycle. And that peak is now!

The primary listening for the east coast comes from the California Highway Patrol. Listening starts in the 39 MHz range, then climbs to 42 MHz and as the MUF improves, 44 and 45 MHz signals come thru as well.

The CTCSS tones will indicate which part of the state you are hearing. Be sure to have the tone search feature of your scanner on to indicate the CTCSS tone.

Why does the CHP still use low band? There just aren't enough frequencies in other bands to go around, thus we have the ability to listen to calls from the west coast Via F2.

A good outside scanner antenna is essential to receiving those weaker F2 signals. A 66-inch wire added to the base of a back of the set antenna can make a big difference for those listening with an inside antenna. Just wrap the end of the wire around the base of the 18 inch telescoping whip that came with your scanner and your low band will come alive. The common Scantenna will do an OK job over an inside antenna. The elements are for European scanners where the low band also includes 54-88 MHz. For optimal listening a dedicated low band antenna can't be beat.

This is a great time to help your scanner friends discover F2 DX. Befriend them, help them listen to signals over 2000 miles away and then...tell them how they can *talk* and not just listen on the ham bands.

Frequencies/PL's/Coverage Areas

<http://www.freqofnature.com/frequencies/ca/chp.html>

CHP Radio Plan

<http://home.comcast.net/~tr1car1/System%20Enhancements%20Rev%2004.3r4%20-%20No%20Markups-Complete.pdf>

Real Time MUF Map

<http://www.spacew.com/www/realtime.php>

Solar Ham

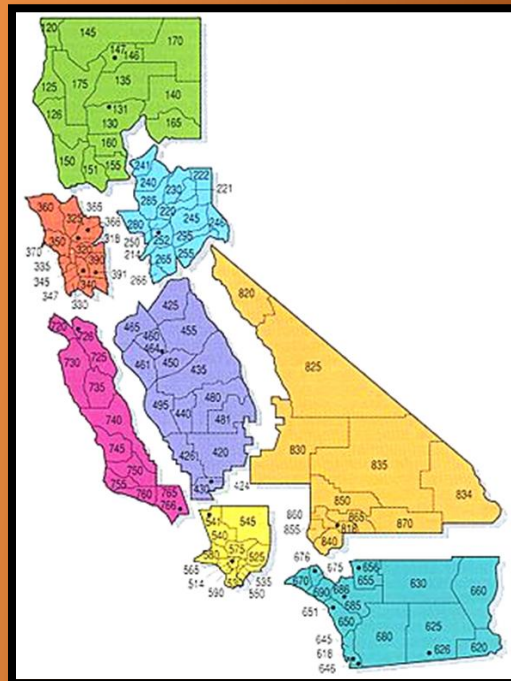
<http://www.solarham.com/>

Yahoo Group VHF Skip 29-50+

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/vhfskip/>

In the next issue I will take a look at low-band US military frequencies that will bring in scanner action from around the world, providing even more to listen to between the six and ten meter bands.

Until next time, 73 to thee.



News from our friends at other area clubs...

Editor's Note: Want to see your club mentioned here? We welcome brief updates and meeting notices from all area ham clubs. Simply send your input to editor@rochesterham.org. When writing your article, here are two simple rules of thumb to follow: Keep it short, and assume that readers know nothing of your club. The piece should be focused toward non-members, and not your own current members... that's what your own newsletter is for! We hope all area clubs will take advantage of this opportunity to interest new members in joining their ranks. 73, -Kevin

Monroe County ARES / RACES News

By Jim DiTucci, N2IX D

Monroe County Amateur Radio Emergency Service, Inc. holds its meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month. All ARES / RACES members and non-member Amateur Radio Operators are welcome and encouraged to attend.

DECEMBER: There will not be a meeting in December. See you on Thursday, January 26, 2012 at 7:00 PM.

Meetings are held at the **Greater Rochester Chapter of the American Red Cross HQ, 50 Prince Street, Rochester, NY 14607.** (Located behind the Rochester Auditorium Theatre, 885 Main St. E.)

ARES NET: Monroe County ARES/RACES meets on the air every Thursday of the month at 9:00 pm, on the 146.61 MHz. (-600) 110.9 Hz PL repeater. The only exception to that are nights when we hold our regular meeting, generally on the 4th Thursday of the month.

NBEMS: Want to learn about Narrow Band Emergency Messaging System (NBEMS)? It's the latest and easiest way to "Go Digital!" Bring your laptop computer and 2-Meter handheld transceiver. We will conduct an NBEMS clinic after every meeting through June 2012.

As always, stay in touch with Monroe County ARES/RACES --- www.monroecountymcomm.org

RRRA News

by Brad Allen, KB2CHY

It's that time of year again. December will most likely bring us some cold weather and some Sn.. well I am not going to speed up the process. December also brings families and friends together. We have once again reserved Macgregor's on Jefferson Rd. for our annual dinner out. No matter how many or who shows up, we always have a great time. We order from the menu and pay our own way. I sure hope we will have a great turnout. We may even have a magician among the crowd for entertainment.

Since I am writing this *before* the November meeting, I am going to go by past attendance numbers and say that our November meeting on the 18th with Nick Francesco was a hit. Attendance was standing room only and a very lively crowd. I always try to think positive, but anytime we have had Nick visit us, it has always been an interesting evening. What would really be fun is for a VE team to show up and give him a Ham Radio Tech test. Now wouldn't he be surprised?



XARX Foxhunt a Success!

By Jon Dickason, N2JAC

Six teams started the annual XARC Fall foxhunt on Saturday, October 22nd from Irondequoit Mall/Medley Centre. They got a little practice at the start with WO2P's micro fox. At 9:30 I activated the transmitter and the hunt was on. The weather was partly sunny and cool.

All three transmitters were hidden in Turning Point Park in Rochester. I've known about this park for several years but haven't explored it until recently for this hunt. It's accessible from Boxart Street, off Lake Ave near Charlotte Appliance. It's on the Genesee River trail which goes from Ontario Beach Park, south to downtown Rochester where it connects to the Greenway Trail to the southern tier. A main feature is a wooden trail from the park north over the water to the marina near the O'Rourke bridge. Several teams spent some time on both sides of the river trying to home in on the transmitter. The river banks and water shielded the signal well from the surrounding terrain, and channeled it up and down the river.

We began hiding the transmitters early Saturday morning. The first fox (7 watts with a j-pole up in a tree) was near the boardwalk trail that extends out over the water. As I was carrying the 2nd fox to its spot, hundreds of joggers passed me on the trail. I smiled and tried not to look like a terrorist as I carried the ammo box with antenna and spoke quietly into my HT. The second transmitter (2.5 watts to a rubber duck) was hidden near the large wooden dock where the cement boat from Toronto docks to pump cement up to the silos near the park. The third transmitter (milliwatts to a dipole) was hidden right at the green cement pipes on the main Genesee River Trail.

The two larger transmitters were designed by Fred, WO2P. The largest is a crystal mobile rig that can be remotely turned on and off. The medium fox is an HT with a Byonics controller. The smallest one is my pocket sized model rocket transmitter with basic stamp controller. We tried to get a good view of the first fox from Seneca Park across the river, but some trees were in the way. We did have a good view of the second and third foxes, and even waved to Paul and Wendell as they approached the fox. We also saw Brian, Greg and Fred move toward the 2nd fox, but they turned around, thinking the fox was across the river. No team got to the third fox, and most didn't even know there were three, since each fox had separate clues for the next.

We met for lunch at LDR Charpit to share hunting tips and award prizes. The overall winners were the only team to find the second fox, Paul, N2TAJ and Wendell. 2nd place went to Brian, K2AS and Greg, who were first to find the first fox. 3rd place was Fred, WO2P and Judy, N2KXS.



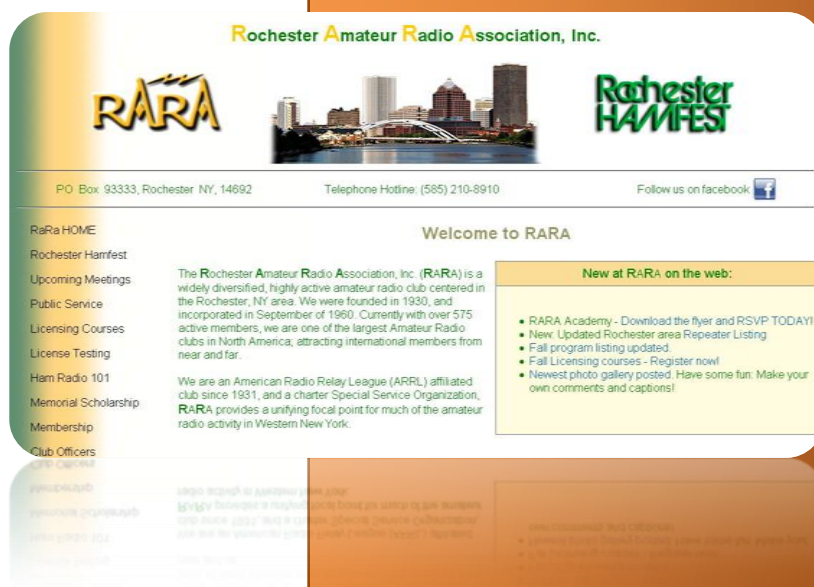
Ross, KC2LOC and Greg placed 4th. Ned. W2NED, Vince, W2VAB and Gregory placed 5th and first-time hunters Dave, KC2REO, Vince, KC2WHR and Will KC2VSJ placed 6th.

Xerox Amateur Radio Club is the most active hidden transmitter hunting club in western NY. We also enjoy Field Day and our 145.29 repeater on Xerox Tower. Our Spring foxhunt is usually in May to coincide with CQ's worldwide foxhunt weekend, and is usually announced on the RARA email reflector. Huntmasters are Jon N2JAC and Bob Scott.

Visit the RARA Website!

Did you know that your club's website at www.rochesterham.org offers these features and more?...

- ✓ Photos of meetings & events (you might be in there!)
- ✓ Info on upcoming meetings/programs
- ✓ Rochester Hamfest information!
- ✓ Online membership & renewal
- ✓ Track and redeem your Reward points
- ✓ Public service info & sign-up
- ✓ VE testing info
- ✓ Back issues of the *Rag* in PDF
- ✓ Officer contact info
- ✓ List of past presidents (how many do you remember?)
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'Twas the night before Christmas,
when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring,
not even a mouse.
My wife was in bed, my teenager texting,
And I was all snug in my shack, still DXing.



When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I ran to the window to see to the matter.
Obviously I had caused a dilemma
Rudolph ran into my Light Beam Antenna!

I grabbed a red light off my tree and went out,
Gave my apology and fixed Rudolph's snout.
The antenna was fine up there on my roof
I knew it was strong, but now I had proof!

That, my good friend, is the end of the story
Of my Light Beam Antenna and I know it sounds corny
But I hope that it made your day merry and bright
Happy Holidays to all! And to all, a good night!

73,
the Light Beam Antenna Team

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RaRa meets on the first Friday of each month
from September through May. Come join us at:

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